

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

A.G. KAWAMURA, Secretary

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December 15, 2004

To: Industry Supervisors, Certified Industry Supervisors, and Certified Laboratories

Subject: Reporting positive antibiotic tankers to the Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch

In order to keep more complete and uniform records of positive antibiotic incidents in bulk raw milk tankers, the Milk and Dairy Food Safety Branch (MDFS) is adopting a new Appendix N Incident Report Form. All facilities testing tankers for antibiotics should report the required data on the enclosed form as soon after testing as possible.

The new form consists of three blocks of information. The first block is to be completed when a sample has reached the presumptive positive stage. A report is not to be filled out if both duplicate screening tests are negative. There are spaces on the form to record general information and test data, including the numeric results from the test read-out and interpretation of the results (e.g., positive or not found). The destination of the rejected tanker is to be recorded. The sample and a copy of the completed report are to be given to the truck driver to be taken to the confirming facility. The confirmation site is to be notified to eliminate any confusion over the status of the milk they will be testing. A copy of the completed form is to be faxed to the MDFS Regional Office in your area, and a phone call made to the Sacramento headquarters office with sample and test information. At this stage the tanker must be confirmed and cannot be sent to another site for screening. The tanker is not to be rejected after an initial positive test. All steps to determine a presumptive positive test are to be followed before a tanker is rejected.

The second block on the form is to be completed for tanker confirmation. Confirmation testing can only be conducted at a certified laboratory. There are spaces for lab information, test results, interpretation, tanker disposition, and results of the 1/100 dilution test for diversion to calf feed. If the tanker confirms negative, no additional information is to be completed on the form and the confirming site is to fax the form to the MDFS Regional Office.

The third block contains the information from producer trace back testing. These steps are taken after a tanker has been confirmed positive. This testing can only be done at a certified laboratory. Once these tests are complete the form is to be faxed to the MDFS Regional Office. Tanker truck samples that confirm positive for beta lactams and samples associated with the violative producers are to be immediately frozen. These samples are to be held for thirty days.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen Beam, Chief
Milk and Dairy Food Safety
Animal Health and Food Safety Services